

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. In Figure 1, a "Prior Art" legend has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 27-46 are present in this application. By this Amendment, the title of the invention, the specification, the drawings and claims 27, 29, 30, 32 and 33 have been amended, and claims 34-46 have been added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

With reference to page 2 of the Office Action, the title has been amended herein according to the Examiner's suggestion, and the specification has been amended to reference the patent number for the parent application. Additionally, an amended drawing has been submitted herewith including a "Prior Art" legend on Fig. 1. Withdrawal of the formalities is respectfully requested.

Claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over "Applicant(s) Admitted Prior Art" (AAPA). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 33 has been amended to clarify the sequential order in which the different steps are performed, that the getter is located in the reference cavity and that air is pumped, through the outside connection, out of the reference cavity.

In the recitement of the AAPA, as described on pages 1-5 of the specification and Figs. 1-3, it is said that according to the AAPA, the following is performed:

"closing the outside connection with a lid (tube 25);" and

"activating the getter (NEG 28) by directly conducting heat via the lid 25 and by maintaining the heated lid 25 in direct contact with the getter 28 for a predetermined period of time."

In the AAPA, the outside connection can be said to include the channel 11 and the tube 23. The tube 23 is closed by a pinching operation and not by applying a lid.

In the AAPA, the getter 28 is activated by a resistive wire 26 wound around the getter. Hence, the getter cannot be said to be activated by conducting heat via a lid, in particular not any lid used for closing the reference cavity after pumping air out of it.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that the rejection is misplaced. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 27, 28 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Soviet Union Author's Certificate 1362971 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,916,479 to Schiabel et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 27 has been amended to clarify the sequential order in which the different steps are performed and that the getter, before the step of moving the solid body, has a free surface open to the exterior and that the solid body in the moving step comes in contact with this free surface.

The method disclosed the cited Author's Certificate includes a different order of the processing steps. Using the terms of the recitement of this document and the English translation, the "solid body (cap 9 and nipple 8)" is first moved "from a position exterior of the reference cavity into direct mechanical contact with the getter 10;" the getter 10 together with the "solid body (cap 9 and nipple 8)" is then placed in the "pressure housing assembly 4;" thereupon a vacuum is provided in the reference cavity; then the reference cavity is sealed by welding the orifice in the nipple 6; and finally the whole "pressure housing assembly 4" is heated to activate the getter 10.

The Office Action contends that U.S. Patent No. 5,916,479 to Schiabel "teaches activating getter material by the use of a heat source of either laser radiation, or induction heating, to thermally active the getter material to the extent that purposely creates a vacuo or vacuum process (discussed at col. 2, lines 31-38)."

In the cited lines of Schiabel, however, is actually said:

"...making them compatible with the assembly operation for electron tubes. The mercury is released from the above-cited compounds by an activating operation, which is usually carried out by heating the material between 750° and 900°C, for about 30 seconds. This heating may be accomplished by laser radiation, or by induction heating of the metallic support of the mercury-dispensing compound."

These lines do not discuss getter material. On page 2, lines 54-56, however, is said that "the getter is activated during the same heat treatment in which the mercury is released as described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,657,589."

The material of Schiabel cannot be used for gettering in a pressure sensor even if it contains getter material since the mercury released from the material would form coatings that influence the movements of e.g. a measuring diaphragm and possibly would destroy measuring electrodes. A person skilled in the art could therefore not combine the teachings of Schiabel with the teachings of the cited Author's Certificate.

By the inclusion of the clarifying clauses in claim 27, the method as defined therein is more clearly distinguished from the teachings of the cited Author's Certificate and Schiabel.

Claim 30 has been amended to clarify that the connection channel extends from the reference cavity to a recess in which the getter is placed.

With respect to claims 28 and 30, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on an allowable independent claim.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over SU '971 in view of Schiabel and U.S. Patent No. 5,443,410 to Ko. The Ko patent, however, does not correct the deficiencies

noted above with regard to claim 27. As such, Applicant submits that claim 29 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependence on an allowable independent claim.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Soviet Union Author's Certificate 1362971 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,916,479 to Schiabel et al. and in view of the AAPA. The AAPA is discussed above, and Applicant submits that the AAPA does not correct the deficiencies with regard to claim 27. As such, Applicant submits that claim 31 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependence on an allowable independent claim.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claim 32 has not been rejected over prior art.

Dependent claims 34-46 have been added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Prompt passage to issuance is earnestly solicited.

JONSSON
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Respectfully submitted,

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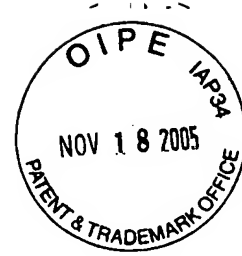


Fig. 1

PRIOR ART

